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ANALYSIS BRANCH

NOV 19 1971

FROM : Amembassy, GUATEMALA

DATE: November 15, 1971

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of Incidents, October 1971

REF : Pol 23 GUA

SUMMARY: Press reported violence of a probable political nature was back up again in October after a decline for each of the two previous months. The total of 110 incidents noted was about average for 1971, but still more than double that of the average in 1970 before the institution of the state of siege. Government actions included

the seizure of two PGI members involved in the Alejos kidnapping negotiations and the capture of two other left-wing terrorists who were consigned to the courts. This last action, combined with the fact that the security forces used restraint in handling confrontations with the university students during the month, and with continuing indications that the Government is moving towards lifting the state of siege suggest that the Arana Administration may now be shifting to a more restrained approach to pacification. However, even if this turns out to be the case, we expect some Government inspired violence to continue. Left-wing terrorist action in the capital area appeared largely confined to fund raising activities including a spectacular holdup of a Coca Cola bottling plant which reportedly netted \$12,000. Other newsworthy items in the press included the kidnapping and rapid release of a wealthy capital doctor and the killing of a judge and a PR mayor. Most of the action was in the provinces where 62% of the incidents occurred and 89% of the bodies were found. END SUMMARY

The month's 110 incidents approximated the January-October average (108) but was more than twice the 1970 pre-siege monthly average (47). The month's 62 bodies included 55 found outside the capital area, 30 unidentified, eight reportedly tortured, and 13 decomposed, suggesting several may have been killed before October. The professions of the victims, in the few cases identified, included four

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POL: RSwider (in draft)

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Contents and Classification Approved by:

POL: WTPryce

DAO: Col. Connelly (in draft)

DCM: J. Greyfuss

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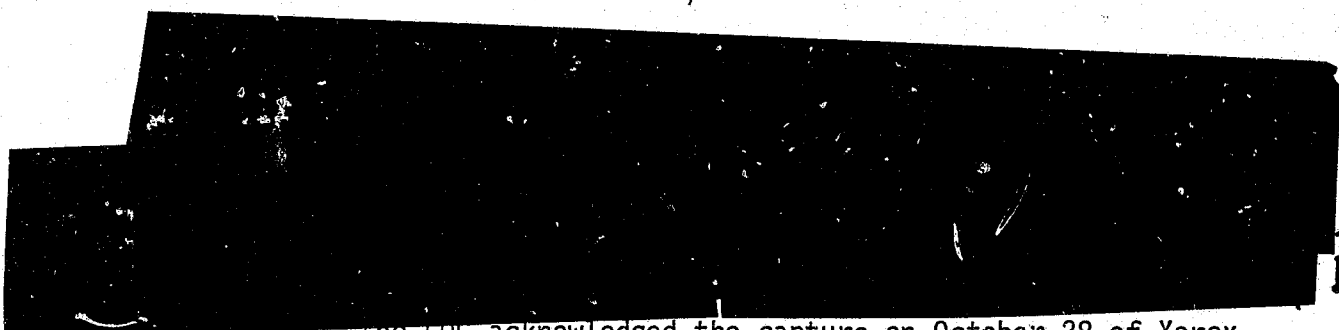
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Otherwise, the GOG acknowledged the capture on October 28 of Xerox employee and economics student Carlos Humberto PALACIOS two days after the press reported his kidnapping, and released Revolutionary Party (PR) Mayor Isauro DUQUE and his secretary the day after the press reported his kidnapping in the capital on October 25. The press reported the arrest of Mirian PINEDA Rivera viuda de Cordero, whose PGT husband, Jose Manuel, was killed by security forces on September 20. The Government consigned both Mrs. Cordero and Palacios to the courts for possession of arms and subversive propaganda. Both were actively involved in Cordero's PGT group. Finally

old Embassy officers that several university students taunting security forces and issuing anti-Government university propaganda had been detained and humiliated by being lectured with their parents, then released into their parents' custody.

South Coast Incidents

Of the 46 South Coast incidents, most (39) involved killings which represent 63% of the country's total killings for the month. Five bodies, including that of a woman, were found in a mass grave in Retalhuleu October 1, reportedly decomposed, tortured, and riddled with bullets. On the 15th, eight olive green uniformed men, armed with machineguns and masked, kidnapped two farmers of Swiss origin who were later found shot to death. A similar group seized Edgar Edmundo PEREZ Barrios on October 29, the PR Mayor of a San Marcos municipality who was found shot to death four days later. Perez is the fifth mayor, all of whom have been from opposition parties, who has disappeared or been killed this year.

Capital Area Incidents

The press reported a judge of the first instance, Francisco SANCHEZ, was shot and killed on October 25 while waiting for his wife at a bus stop. Government Minister Arenales told Embassy officers that the GOG was examining his past cases for clues as to who might have shot him but believed the killing to be non-political. Many of the capital's 42 incidents involved kidnappings; few (seven) involved deaths. The newspapers quoted witnesses and family members as accusing the "judiciales" (detective squad) of nine kidnappings.

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Eastern Region Incidents

Twenty-one incidents including 15 deaths occurred in the east in departments this month. In the Peten, six were killed including a finquero shot by an armed band, and a national finca administrator robbed of a Q1,585 payroll. In addition, two Puerto Barrios military commissioners were wounded in an attack where they lost their weapons. Two others in Los Amates (Izabal), site of the Thompson murder last month (A-191), were riddled with bullets on October 13.

Court Actions

In October, 44 exhibition requests were made for missing Guatemalans in which 11 were released, four produced but kept under detention, four subsequently were reported by the press to have turned up dead, and 25 were still missing. Otherwise, there were no court sentences of an important political nature reported in the press (see the Palacios and Mrs. Cordero cases, page 3).

PMAs to Replace Police in the Peten

Government sources said beginning in November, the civilian Peten police force, GRUDEP, would be replaced by the PMAs to further centralize police functions and install a more effective law-enforcement organization. Police sources, indicate, however, that GRUDEP will be phased out slowly and that the Army always has considered Peten primarily their charge. (NOTE: The move is in keeping with the increasing powers of the PMAs. Last June their jurisdiction in criminal cases was expanded in the rural areas reflecting the Army's apparent acute concern towards combating Peten-based lawlessness which, based on press reports, is slowly but measurably increasing.)

COMMENT: The PGT/FAR may be stepping up its activities based on the [redacted] and the upsurge in daylight armed assaults on commercial establishments and on individual police attacks, a traditional PGT/FAR training practice. The organization is hard up for funds, hasn't suffered any major GOG attack for several months, could use

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some propaganda (at least for its members' morale), and is getting a new cadre of leaders trained abroad returning.

BOWDLER

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Enclosure:

Monthly Frequency of Political incidents by Region.

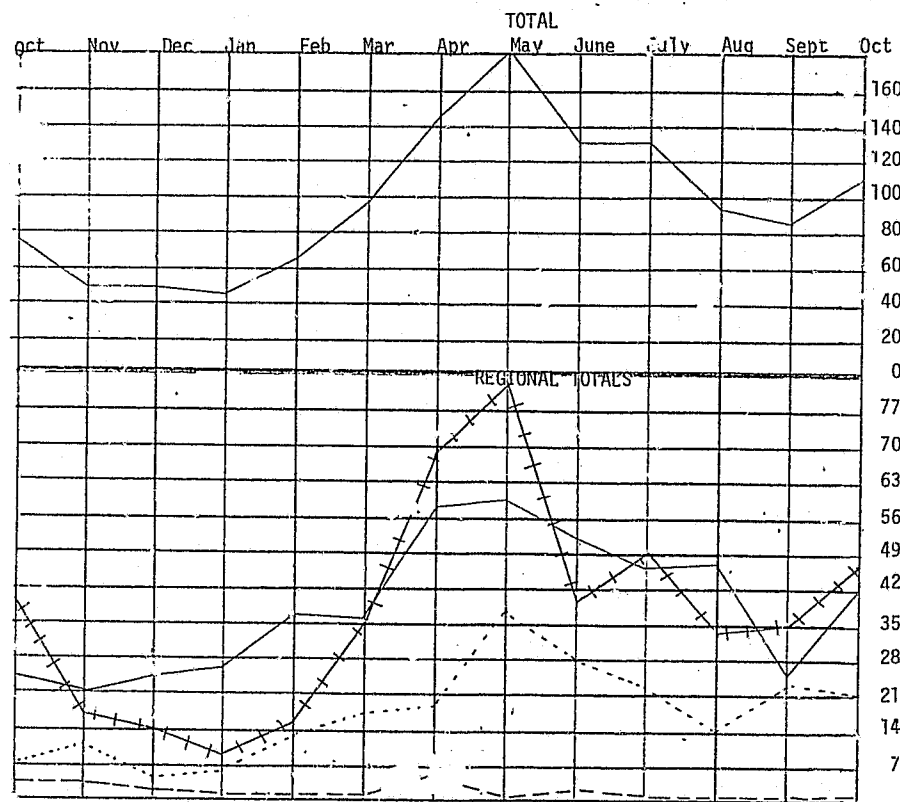
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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION (1) - OCTOBER 1970 - OCTOBER 1971



Total - 110

1. For purposes of this graph, acts of violence including shootings, bombings, and deaths, all of which appear to be politically motivated.
2. Capital area (—) - Sacatepequez, Guatemala
3. South Coast (||||) - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
4. Eastern Region (.....) - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten
5. Highlands (---) - Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola